



TV / FILM

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DVD Review: *Barack Obama - The Power of Change*

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Whatever side of the political fence you're on, you must admit that nobody running for presidential office in 2007 or 2008 can deliver a speech quite like [Barack Obama](#). Just like — as both a Democrat but also one who resides in Arizona — I can say many positive things about Senator John McCain, Obama's ability to inspire, fire up, engage, draw laughter and tears (sometimes within the same five minutes) from the most diverse crowds on both ends of the political spectrum is admirable, enviable, and thrilling. Thus, it makes the endless comparisons to JFK and Martin Luther King Jr. seem warranted and at the same time, reminds us that in the future, other politicians, as Michelle Obama noted in her UCLA rally speech, will be held up to the same public speaking "bar" that he continually leaps over once it's set.



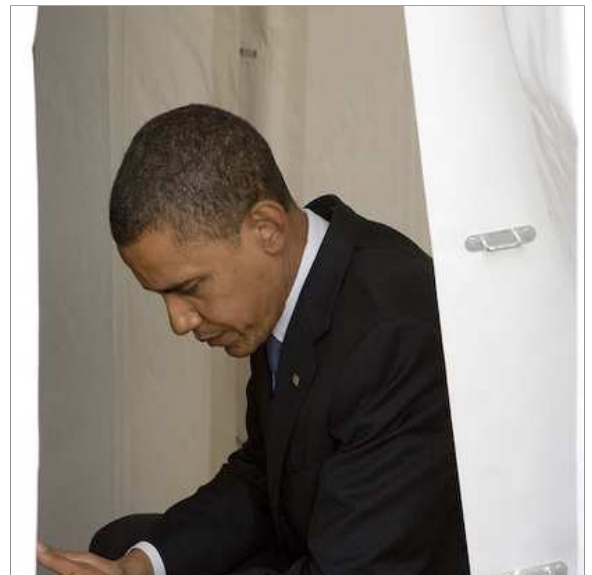
In the wake of 24 hour news channels, political pundits and bloggers, fake news hosts on Comedy Central, and YouTube, it's easy for speeches to get distorted and misleadingly edited to whatever selective reality the "producer" of the content decides to put forth. So in order to avoid the sound bites and spin that distract and distort rather than engage and inspire, host [Pearl Jr.](#) notes that the purpose of the ROCKCITY and [MVD's](#) DVD *Barack Obama: The Power of Change* was to not only give viewers a chance to own their own personal piece "of history" (making it valuable for school and university libraries) but also present several important speeches associated with

Obama's historic presidential campaign.

Offering viewers the opportunity to jump directly to the speeches they most want to analyze and/or cherish, the well-intentioned yet uneven and poorly executed disc doesn't quite provide as unfiltered of a presentation as our host had promised. Beginning with Obama's famous announcement in Illinois, the film footage of what is inarguably one of the most momentous political events of our generation is hindered by home video quality footage that's difficult to hear at times.

Additionally, it's also annoyingly inter-spliced with pointless Power Point-styled factoids complete with an overuse of the exclamation point about Obama's love of basketball and obvious statements like "affordable healthcare is an important issue in America" that were even more distracting than CNN's perpetually moody Lou Dobbs and the infamous bottom-of-the-screen "crawl" combined. And indeed throughout the DVD, unfortunately, microphone trouble seemed to be the biggest obstacle as the echo of the sound made certain sentences indecipherable and closed captioning would've helped bring Obama's message to all viewers from the hearing impaired to the elderly in a much more effective way.

Likewise, in this era of so much coverage, no doubt, there were far more professionally photographed documentations



of the same events available to use instead, although of course budget would be a concern and I greatly appreciate and admire the intentions of producer, host, interviewer and director Pearl Jr. However for such a technologically savvy candidate with his own overflowing [Flickr Photostream](#) and hundreds upon hundreds of videos via his [YouTube Channel](#) that can be freely accessed by interested parties, we know we could've done better than an interview with the former model Tyson Beckford.



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